

A New *Terebra* from the Coral Reef Areas Off North Carolina

(Gastropoda : Terebridae)

BY

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(1 Plate)

OF SPECIAL INTEREST on the North Carolina Continental Shelf are the coral reefs growing in the Onslow Bay region (MACINTYRE & PILKEY, 1969). These reefs, which extend roughly to the 34° North Parallel, represent the northernmost zone of hermatypic coral growth on the North American continent and the extreme northern limit of the Caribbean Province.

The Onslow Bay reefs, which are composed primarily of massive corals, contain an impoverished tropical faunal assemblage with about 45% of the total characteristic molluscan elements found in the Caribbean (D. WOLFE & N. WOLFE, 1970). Many unusual species have been collected in this area. Among these were *Morum dennisoni* (Reeve, 1842), *Strombus costatus* (Gmelin, 1791) (PETUCH, 1972), *Cypraea cervus* Gmelin, 1791, and such strange forms as extremely thin-shelled *Phalium granulatum* (Born, 1778) (D. WOLFE, 1967), abnormally large *Conus juliae* Clench, 1942, dwarf *Cassis madagascariensis spinella* Clench, 1944 (PORTER, 1965), endemic odostomias (H. WELLS & M. WELLS, 1961), and many others.

Several specimens of an unusual *Terebra* were dredged by the Duke University Marine Laboratory R/V *Eastward* and by commercial shrimp and scallop boats near the reefs in Onslow Bay during the months of June through August, 1971. At first they appeared to be merely color varieties of *Strioterebrum dislocata* (Say, 1822). However, upon closer examination, it was found that they could be easily separated from that species by having many distinct and unique traits. The following taxon is proposed.

NEOGASTROPODA

TEREBRIDAE H. & A. Adams, 1853

Strioterebrum Sacco, 1891

Strioterebrum onslowensis Petuch, spec. nov.

Description: Shell elongate, polished, with 16-18 whorls; 35-37 prominent axial ribs per whorl; whorls divided one-fourth their total length by a wide, deeply impressed spiral sulcus. There is a series of spiral cords between and overlapping the axial ribs that give the shell a slightly pustulose appearance. Columella with 2 raised spiral folds. Color dark chocolate brown with a white band that shows through in the aperture. Early whorls uniform dark brown.

Animal: Head and tentacles cream-yellow in color; foot yellow with brown fleckings.

Dimensions of Holotype: length, 45 mm; width, 12 mm

Holotype: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California; Geology Department Type Collection no. 54719.

Type Locality: 21.6m depth in Onslow Bay, approximately 20 km SSE of Bogue Inlet, North Carolina (34°25' N; 77°00' W).

Distribution: This species is confined to the areas near the coral reef complexes in Onslow Bay. Its range does not appear to extend any further south than Cape Fear, North Carolina.

Discussion: *Strioterebrum onslowensis* (Figures 1, 2, and 3) could be confused with *S. dislocata* (Say, 1822) (Figure 4). However, it differs from that species by having a larger, heavier shell with a greater spire angle, by having a much wider and more deeply impressed spiral sulcus, and by having a more flaring aperture. The axial ribbings are also finer and more numerous; 35 - 37 in *S. onslowensis*, 25 in *S. dislocata*. The Onslow Bay Auger shells are of a consistent dark brown color with a white band, while *S. dislocata* is usually grey, orange, pink, or white. The animals are also quite different in coloration; *S. onslowensis* is yellow-brown while *S. dislocata* is white.

Strioterebrum brightonensis Olsson, 1967 of the Pinecrest Beds, Brighton, Florida, upper Miocene Caloosahatchee Formation (OLSSON, 1967), has many morphological characteristics in common with *S. onslowensis*. The most obvious of these is the wide, deeply impressed spiral sulcus. Another interesting Miocene species, *S. colombiana* Olsson, 1967 from the Arroyo Charco Grande, Atlantico, Colombia, shows a close relationship to both of these species.

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Explanation of Figures 1 to 4

Figure 1: *Strioterebrum onslowensis* Petuch, spec. nov.
Figure 2: *Strioterebrum onslowensis* Petuch, spec. nov.

Figure 3: *Strioterebrum onslowensis* Petuch, spec. nov.
Figure 4: *Strioterebrum dislocata* (Say, 1822)